

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4909

### 1. Name

Historic 1820 – 1832 North Etting Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1820 – 1832 North Etting Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of seven two-story, two-bay wide Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1880, by the same builder responsible for 1821 – 1831 Etting St., across the street. Most of the houses retains their original brick façades, which was always painted; two have been covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 10'9" wide and occupy lots 70' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a simple wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by a row of small, narrow scroll-sawn modillions, set against a plain, deep frieze panel.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums and wood sills. One set of original 2/2 sash survive; the rest of the openings are either boarded over or filled with 1/1 sash. Doorways have single-light transoms, but no original doors survive and many doorways are boarded over. The houses sit on low basements, lit by single-light sash. Each house is reached by three marble or concrete steps.

### 3. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

**Specific dates** c. 1880

**Builder/Architect**

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the years after the Civil War when these same builders were erecting large, fashionable houses on the main streets, often facing parks or squares. While building three-story houses on the main streets that might sell for \$2,500 - \$3,500, they were also providing decent, inexpensive housing for the local working classes that might sell for \$700 - \$900. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to all of the city's neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that people held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new middle-class neighborhoods going up in west and east Baltimore. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 15' to 18'-wide three-story houses on the main streets (priced at different levels according to the importance of the street and the house width), and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks.

Builders usually sold their small street houses in this neighborhood to German-American semi-skilled workers and laborers who received mortgages from the wide variety of community and ethnically-sponsored building and loan associations. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties or sold them to other investors. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The houses are especially significant because they belong to a small group of surviving small street houses in northwest Baltimore, the vast majority having been cleared during the various urban renewal projects over the last several decades. They are also important because of their proximity to the various railroad and streetcar-building shops located in this portion of the city, as well as the slaughterhouses and their related industries. Housing of this type was built to provide reasonable-priced housing for the many mainly German immigrants who came to northwest Baltimore to work in these industries in the decades after the Civil War.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



BLOOM

B-4909 1820-1832 E Hing St, N.  
BALTO, MD

WILSON

BALTIMORE  
HEBREW  
CONGREGATION

12

PRESSTMAN

DRUID HILL

CULLOH

DIVISION

ROBERT

PENNSYLVANIA

LAURENS

WILSON

FREMONT

PATTERSON  
LAFAYETTE MARKET  
SEWELL

ARGYLE

McMECHEN

SCHOOL  
UNION-PROT  
INFIRMARY

COAL  
YARD

MARBLE  
YARD

COAL  
YARD

DRIVE  
STABLE

COIL YARD

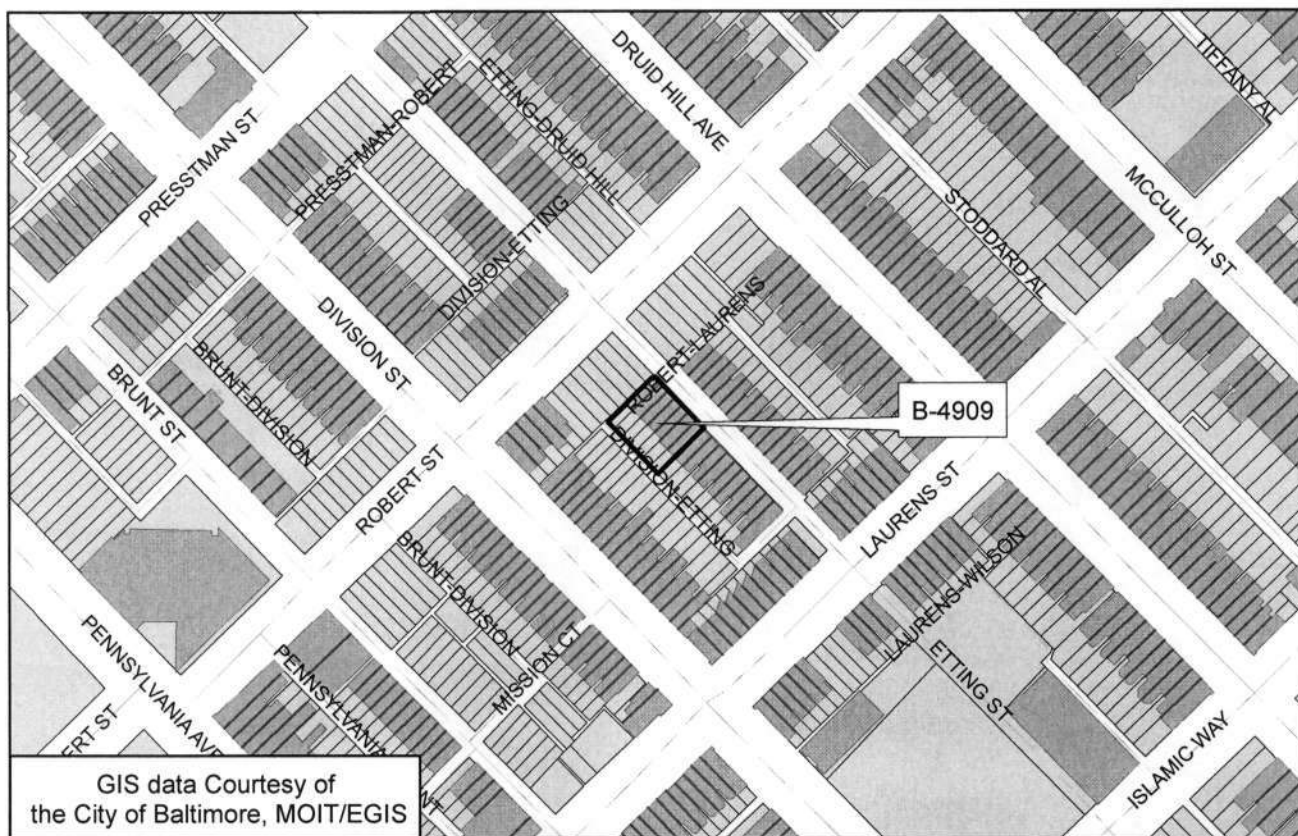
POSTMASTER  
RESIDENCE

DEPT.  
STORE

P.B. & W. CO.  
PENNA. A. R.

ST. JOHN  
INDEP.  
METH.

B-4909  
1820-1832 Etting Street  
Block 0328  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad







B-4909

1820-1832 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hwy St.

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SHPO

1/1